

SITUATION REPORT NO. 28
INCIDENT NO. 97-015
DATE: APRIL 23, 1997 TIME: 12:00 P.M.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: To date, seven people have died as a result of problems created by the winter storm and flooding.
3. DAMAGES: As Red River flood waters move north, N.D. National Guard members were assisting on April 23 with the evacuation of farmers between Neche and Pembina. The Red River at Pembina was at 53.25 feet on April 23 and is expected to crest at 58 to 59 feet by April 27-28. Although the National Weather Service pushed back its dates for the predicted crest at Pembina, residents who were evacuated on April 22 are allowed to return during daylight hours to retrieve additional belongings. The Red River at Drayton had reached 45.23 feet by early April 23 and is expected to crest by April 24-25 at 48 to 49 feet, nearly five feet over original predictions.

The Red River at Grand Forks had crested at 54 feet on April 22 and is beginning to recede very slowly. The river level was 53.6 feet on April 23. Because the city water plant is not operational, state and local officials have been working to secure adequate water supplies for evacuees and responders. In addition, fire fighters responded to a fire at the Human Nutrition Center, which has been contained. A Grand Forks chemical company reports that up to 1,000 tons of urea, which contains 46 percent nitrogen fertilizer, may have spilled into flood waters. Terra International was notified that three bins containing the chemical had been damaged during flooding at its bulk fertilizer plant. Company officials were trying to determine the extent of damage, as well as damage to its agriculture chemical storage facility, located a few blocks away. That facility had been storing chemicals for the planting season.

Job Service North Dakota reports a significant rise in the number of people applying for jobless benefits and Disaster Unemployment Assistance. The agency, which routinely processes 500 new claims a week statewide, had processed 646 new claims in just one day, on April 21. The influx of applications has required Job Service to add additional phone lines and shift employees from other responsibilities. Applicants are asked to contact their local office or call (800) 472-2222.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from the first report.

STATE: No change from the first report.

FEDERAL: No change from the first and second reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: Elizabeth Dole, as leader of the American Red Cross, plans to visit flood-stricken areas in the Red River Valley on April 23.

As of April 21, the Salvation Army had assisted 196,967 flood victims and disaster service personnel in North Dakota and Minnesota. The agency's "Operation We Care" continues to provide meals and drinks to 19,000 persons a day at 22 mobile kitchens.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: During his April 22 visit to North Dakota, President Clinton announced that he is directing the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to reimburse 100 percent of North Dakota's costs for immediate disaster-related emergency work. This includes cleanup and protection of property. The President also announced that he has asked the U.S. Congress to appropriate another \$200 million in emergency contingency funds to help North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota address flooding problems.

Representatives for the city of Grand Forks, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and N.D. State Water Commission met on April 22 to establish water distribution and production priorities. The group agreed that the first priority is to secure an adequate water supply to the Grand Forks Base, where more than 2,500 evacuees are housed. The second priority is to supply water to shelters in the Grand Forks area, and the third is to produce 1,000,000 gallons of water to start up and sanitize the city's water treatment system. The city requires 7,000,000 gallons a day; the plant's storage capacity is 10,000,000.

To date, FEMA has provided a portable radio transmitter and a generator to keep Grand Forks' only radio station on the air; 7,000 blankets, 3,080 cots, and 900 sleeping bags to North Dakota flood victims; and 188 staff members for the State/Federal Disaster Field Office (DFO) located in Bismarck.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has assigned 32 staff members to North Dakota, including field offices in Fargo and Wahpeton. SBA has issued 12,405 loan applications and approved \$280,500 in loans to date.

The U.S. Department of Labor has allocated \$1 million to North Dakota for the Title III Dislocated Workers National Reserve account, used to fund temporary jobs in cleanup and recovery efforts.

The N.D. Department of Human Services (DHS) has initiated an Emergency Food Stamp Program for eight Red River Valley counties and to accept emergency food stamp

applications in non-designated counties for individuals who have been evacuated. The Grand Forks Air Force Base Commissary has been authorized to accept food stamp payments from evacuees. Human Services staff also applied for \$11.75 million in Energy Assistance contingency funding for assisting in furnace replacement, cleaning, insulation replacement of and restoration of electrical services to low-income households. Application also has been made by DHS Aging Services Division for \$250,000 from the Administration on Aging for chore service rehabilitation as part of recovery efforts.

DHS staff members are also assisting with the continuation of social services offered in Grand Forks. The staff helped Grand Forks County Social Services establish a temporary office in Larimore, which is scheduled to open April 23. Eligibility and social workers from other counties have offered to help staff the temporary office. DHS' Child Support Enforcement Division is assisting the Grand Forks County Clerk of District Court in processing child support payments by arranging receipt of payments at alternate addresses. DHS also issued public service announcements for flood-displaced foster parents to contact the agency and identify their location to ensure receipt of checks.

Human Services staff report that 25 frail elderly residents, who had been housed at the Grand Forks Air Force Base, have been relocated to basic care providers in the Bismarck-Mandan area. Forty-five Valley Care and Almonte nursing home residents have also been relocated from the base to nursing facilities in western North Dakota. The N.D. Long Term Care Association, a busing company, and ambulance services throughout North Dakota assisted with arrangements. Arrangements also have been made to transport mentally-ill persons from the base to the State Hospital in Jamestown on an as-needed basis.

The N.D. Department of Health continued efforts on April 22 to support flood victims in Grand Forks, by providing medical supplies, active surveillance of health conditions at shelters and a food inspection. The agency sent 700 additional doses of tetanus vaccine and ordered an additional 2,000 doses for the Grand Forks Public Health Department, which has been temporarily relocated to the Grand Forks Air Force Base. The agency also sent 500 doses of tetanus vaccine to Devils Lake and 500 doses to the First District Health Unit in Minot. Purchases include: 10,000 waterless hand washing solution hand washes; 1,000 first-aid kits with enough supplies for 10,000 minor injuries; a cellular phone on loan to the Grand Forks Public Health administrator; and 10,000 syringes. A food inspection was scheduled for a Minot shelter, and health conditions were being monitored at Devils Lake and Minot shelters. During contacts with the media, the Department of Health officials stressed that tetanus immunizations were a recommendation.

The National Guard had 944 members on duty April 21 to help flood and storm victims. Members with expertise in water purification and distribution were processing and providing water supplies to evacuees and responders in the Grand Forks area. Crews also established an aviation fueling point in Cavalier to support flood fight efforts in both North Dakota and Minnesota. In Cass County, the National Guard has 15 dump trucks filled with clay on standby to help with construction of Fargo's emergency dike. Crews were working in Emmons, Kidder, Logan and McKenzie Counties to remove animals killed during the April 4-6 blizzard. To date, the National Guard has 90 missions in progress, six pending and has completed 132 missions.

A Drayton bulk fertilizer plant manager received assistance April 22 with relocating his

fertilizer supply when the National Guard Public Affairs Office contacted area television and radio stations, issuing an urgent need for truck drivers. The manager explained during live interviews that he wanted to relocate the fertilizer to another designated location for fear that Red River waters would overtop a dike near his plant.

The N.D. Department of Agriculture has received 192 requests for assistance with carcass removal from waterways and burial. To date, 22 missions have been completed, representing the removal of 656 carcasses from water and the burial of 444 carcasses. Six state and federal teams have been assigned 46 missions.

The Agriculture Disaster Response Center (ADRC) received more than 100 phone calls on April 21. Many of the callers were interested in the animal carcass disposal program. Other callers reported livestock losses, inquired about the possibility of indemnity payments, and wanted information on assistance that might be available to them. Farmers and ranchers in the western half of North Dakota who need assistance with animal carcass burial have been asked to contact the ADRC by 5 p.m. April 23 at (888) 337-8632.

FEMA's National Teleregistration Center has registered 14,997 North Dakotans for individual assistance aid.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: North Dakota residents with disaster-related damages can apply for individual assistance programs by contacting the National Teleregistration Center (NTC) at (800) 462-9029. The N.D. Department of Agriculture operates an Agriculture Disaster Response Center for farmers coping with damages and losses caused by the disaster. The toll-free number is (888) 337-8632.

The Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports for the spring flood, Devils Lake flood and winter storm are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>".

The N.D. State Water Commission posts flood-related information on its Internet home page. The address is "<http://water.swc.state.nd.us>". The N.D. Department of Agriculture also posts flood-related information on its home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/agr/>". The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a "Water Control Home Page" at "<http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>". The U.S. Geological Survey's Internet home page address is: "<http://srv1dndbmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/>".

Raymond J. Staiger, Acting State Director